



Poetry, Prose and Midrash: A Writing Workshop

Date:	Eight Tuesday sessions January 8 - February 26
Time:	7-9 pm
Tuition:	\$75/CSZ or Lehrhaus members; \$95/non-members
Taught by:	Dan Bellm
Location:	Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Register:	Lehrhaus Judaica (www.lehrhaus.org or 510/845-6420)

This course is for writers, at all levels of experience, who are interested in combining a serious pursuit of weekly Torah study with their own creative expression through poetry or prose. The focus of this class will be on the practice of developing and writing one's own midrashim - commentaries, interpretations and legends - in response to the weekly cycle of Torah readings. Each session will combine Torah discussion, in-class writing exercises and examples of how other poets and writers have responded to these

Biblical texts. Students will be encouraged to work on poems or other pieces between sessions, and to keep a Torah study journal.

It's recommended that each student should have a Chumash with commentary, such as *The Torah: A Modern Commentary* (UAHC), *The JPS Torah Commentary* (Jewish Publication Society) or *The Five Books of Moses*, trans. Everett Fox (Schocken Bible/Word). We will also have copies of these, and many secondary sources, at the class.

Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class Begins January 9

CSZ's Adult B'nei Mitzvah program is for adults who are planning or considering having a bar or bat mitzvah ceremony to affirm a transformation in their relationship with Torah. We will learn together about essential Jewish ideas, how to lead a Shabbat morning service, how to chant from the Torah and, along the way, we will deepen our connections to our traditions, to our community and to our study companions.

The core class of the program, Ten Essentials of Judaism, begins on Wednesday, January 9, from 7:30 to 9 pm. The ten-week course is taught by Dev Felder Noily, with Rabbi Angel and special guest lecturers. All CSZ members who are planning or considering an adult bar or bat mitzvah are welcome.

Please call the CSZ office to sign up for the class. Please call Dev Felder Noily (415/753-5097) with any questions about this class or about CSZ's Adult B'nei Mitzvah program.

Parents' Night Out

Bring your kids to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Saturday, January 26, from 5 pm to 11 pm, and treat yourself to a well-deserved night on the town. The capable, responsible and thoroughly entertaining Madrichim (teen leaders) of Kadimah will be hosting a babysitting night for all CSZ kids over the age of 4. We will provide dinner, games, Jewish art projects and movies to keep your kids happy and busy while you eat a great meal, see a play or movie or go dancing.

The cost of babysitting is \$5 per hour, per child (such a bargain!). All proceeds go towards subsidizing Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Madrichim participation in the annual Religious Action Conference (a teen social justice program) in Washington, D.C. in February. This is a great opportunity to give yourself a break, give your kids an evening of fun and games, and give tzedakah towards the next generation of Jewish leaders. For more details or to RSVP, please call Sue Bojdak (415/861-6932 ext. 302).

Music in the Mishkan Celebrates Shabbat Shira!

On Saturday, January 26, Jews all over the world celebrate Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song), with the songs of freedom that Moses, Miriam and the children of Israel sang at the Sea of Reeds after fleeing Egypt. On Sunday, January 27 at 4 pm, we will continue the celebration here at Sha'ar Zahav with the first concert of this year's Music in the Mishkan series. CSZ member and violinist Randy Weiss promises a fantastic afternoon of chamber music. Two of his musician friends will join him: San Francisco Opera Orchestra Cellist Victoria Ehrlich and Scott Anderson, Principal Clarinetist of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra.

The centerpiece of the program is the *Duo for Violin and Cello* by the remarkable Jewish Czech composer and pianist Gideon Klein. Klein died tragically at the age of 25, murdered by the Nazis in

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CSZ Open Dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

CSZ invites you to join us for a monthly series of dialogues regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The January dialogue is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, from 7-8:30 pm. Be sure to mark your calendars for the February 21 dialogue as well, also at 7-8:30 pm. Both dialogues will be co-facilitated by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and CSZ member Rachel Timoner. For more information contact Rachel Timoner (rtimoner@igc.org).

Bereavement Support Group

Join Rabbi Camille Shira Angel for a seven-week bereavement support group for congregants who have lost a parent in the last few years. The Bereavement Support Group has been scheduled for every Wednesday from 7-8:30 pm, starting on January 16 and ending on February 27. There is still some space available. If you are interested in participating in this group, or would like more information, please contact Gabby Volodarsky (415/861-6932 ext. 310 or at gabbyv@shaarzahav.org).

LGBT Jewish Weddings in a Day

Are you thinking about getting married? Wondering whether you can, or even should, have a Jewish wedding? If you answered yes to these questions, this is one program you don't want to miss! Join Rabbi Camille Shira Angel on Sunday, February 10, from 11 am to 3 pm to study the traditional elements of a Jewish wedding. Explore how to infuse this lifecycle event with an LGBT sensibility. We will take a look at a variety of LGBT Jewish weddings and ritual elements, creative ketubot, fashion options and more. We will also discuss dealing with difficult family issues, interfaith concerns and other challenges. For information, class cost and to register, contact Lehrhaus Judaica (www.lehrhaus.org or 510/845-6420). Free to CSZ Members, \$25 for Lehrhaus members and \$30 for the public. Contact Lehrhaus Judaica (www.lehrhaus.org or 510/845-6420) to register.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

- Michael Peck
- Norman Abramson
- Paul Whitmore

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Happy 25th Birthday, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

In 1977, the concept of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was born over brunch. This year will mark the 25th anniversary of our founding, hard as that is to believe for those who were there in the beginning when we had no building, for those who joined while we were still on Danvers Street, and even for those who first came to services at our present home on Dolores Street. It is remarkable, as we look back over the years, the many different ways that we have defined ourselves, with each label needing to be changed to reflect our evolving diversity.

There will be several occasions for celebrating next year. We are planning five events throughout 2002, each with a different focus; among the events will be a service, a family outing and a festive party.

There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jeff Forman (jeff4man@pacbell.net.)

Save the date for the Second Annual Art Shabbaton:

April 19-21

Reawaken all your muses and join us for another fabulous weekend of spirituality and creativity. Study Torah, create midrash, express yourself through music, dance, poetry and hands-on art, in workshops led by talented CSZ members and community artists.

In these days, clouded by uncertainty and painful thoughts, it is more important than ever to celebrate our community and the values of compassion and the pursuit of peace.

Here is a wonderful opportunity to do a mitzvah and have a great time as well. Sponsor a workshop for \$36 and make it possible for kids to attend age-appropriate workshops without charge. Help us bring this project to fruition and increase participation. Donations can be sent to the CSZ office; indicate "Art Shabbaton" on the memo line.

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

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GENE B. KAUFMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Celebrate Freedom to Marry Day Register as Domestic Partners

CSZ will be celebrating National Freedom to Marry Day on Sunday, February 10. Following Rabbi Angel's class, LGBT Weddings in a Day (from 11 am to 3 pm), you and your partner are invited to register with the State of California as domestic partners. Take advantage of newly granted statewide recognition of same-sex relationships. Beginning at 3 pm, we will have notaries available to certify domestic partnership forms. Following the paperwork, we will have a ritual honoring our commitments and our right to make them.

November Va'ad Minutes

Jeff Sherman delivered the d'var Torah on Chayai Sarah, focusing on Eliezer's efforts to find a wife for Isaac. Eliezer never forgot his mission, or that he was representing Abraham. Jeff concluded that we must focus on what's important, and on our role as representatives of the community.

Members of the Art Shabbaton Committee presented their proposal. The goal of the Shabbaton is to provide every possible way to celebrate Judaism in art. We gave the proposal an enthusiastic thumbs up; a more detailed budget and plan will follow.

After discussion of the excellent work of the Planning-to-Plan Committee, we concluded that the current long-range planning project should focus on mission/vision/values as related to growth and money. Using the Congregational Advance, we will be able to fulfill our promise to incorporate members in decision-making.

Rabbi Angel reported that Adult Education is thriving, that Kadimah-led services were great, and that an ad hoc group is forming to help carry out work re: Jews by Choice, interfaith families, and people in search of deepening spiritual practice. The Rabbi would like to provide adult b'nei mitzvah as a life-cycle event for all interested members. We have the students and teachers and interest; we just need ideas for financing. The Rabbi will be attending the upcoming UAHC biennial, conducting a morning prayer service with our siddur, and participating in panels on youth at risk (in-

cluding LGBT points of view) and body image for teen girls.

We welcomed seven new members. One member moved away, two resigned. Two members happily merged into one member household.

We revisited the issue of security at services, including the judgment calls involved when people resist our ID and nametag policy. When implementing our policy, we are reminded to think about the difficulty of being "other" here. We considered stationing a greeter at the front door after services, to say goodbye and to make sure that people do not come into the building as the door is closing.

The Federation has agreed to match this year's Koret grant. Financially, we cannot go forward with the Executive Director position by Feb. 2002.

Lisa Katz thanked Drew Parker-Rose and Michael Zimmerman as they conclude their work on the Dues Committee. Thanks also to Laura Lowe, who has completed her service as liaison to the Rainbow Adult Housing Committee. A volunteer for this position would be welcome.

James Carlson delivered the Treasurer's Report. James presented a breakdown of dues pledges. Our average cost per member household is \$2094. We discussed the need to increase the percentage of our households paying at or above this average cost. A minority of eligible members are availing themselves of the

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Music in the Miskan

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1945. His last three years were spent at the Terezin concentration camp, where he organized concerts of contemporary Jewish music written and performed by his fellow prisoners.

The program will also include German composer Ingolf Dahl's delightful *Concerto a Tres*. Dahl fled the Nazis in 1928, eventually arriving in the U.S. to teach composition at USC, where his students included S.F. Symphony conductor Michael Tilson Thomas.

Tunes from Mozart's mystical opera *The Magic Flute* (in arrangements for clarinet and violin) and Zoltan Kodaly's fiery *Duo for Violin and Cello* will round out the program.

Tickets are available in advance or at the door. Everyone is invited to shmooze with the performing artists at the wine and cheese reception immediately following the concert. For more information, contact the office (415/861-6932).

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The Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign: Announcing Phase Two

From 1996 to 1998, Sha'ar Zahav conducted the largest and most successful fundraising campaign in the history of the congregation. During that time, more than 400 member households, along with relatives of members and friends of Sha'ar Zahav, pledged over \$1.7 million to support the purchase and renovation of our new home here on Dolores Street. Well over \$1.3 million of those pledges have already been paid up, and donations continue to come in. For many members, their pledge was a big financial stretch, often the largest single donation they had ever made. Most members made pledges for a five-year period, and many members made pledges that totaled five or ten times their annual dues pledge, sometimes more.

The Capital Campaign helped to make our new home a reality in 1998. Although the initial renovation is complete, new building projects continue to emerge. Our home remains a work in progress. We always knew that the

pledges received through 1998 would not cover all the costs of building and financing our new home. The congregation is still repaying several large loans. Our goal is to redeem the existing pledges and to receive an additional \$400,000 in contributions to ensure that the capital budget remains adequately funded over the next five years.

So the time is right to begin Phase Two of our Capital Campaign.

We will be asking all of our members who have not yet pledged, whether you have been a member for just a year or for ten years, to make a pledge now. Mishkan Dolores remains the most significant financial undertaking of CSZ, and it is important that all of us who are sustained by this community help to shoulder the burden. The glass plaques in the entry foyer contain the names of everyone who contributed to the initial Capital Campaign. We hope you will all choose to pledge, and to add your names to that wall.

November Va'ad Minutes

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dues cap, most of those eligible continue to pay above the minimum. While recognizing the current economy, we need to find a way to increase dues revenues. The Dues Committee is in need of additional members. We also need to seek Mishkan Dolores pledges from members who have not yet participated in the Capital Campaign.

Lea Salem delivered the Administrator's Report. There will now be one e-mail per week to members (plus messages as needed for emergencies). We're been having problems with some of our members not receiving email from us. Our messages to congregants may be getting filtered as "spam," especially by those who use AOL. Gabby is now handling the Rabbi's schedule and the mishebeirach list. The effort of the greeters are greatly appreciated.

Israel Hosts World LGBT Jewish Confab

Picture this: You're with hundreds of Jewish lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people from all over the world. You're making new friends from Australia, Mexico, Germany, Brazil, Israel - even New Jersey! Shmoozing about things Jewish, things political, things sexual. In six different languages!

It's all taking place next summer in Israel, where the 17th Annual World Conference of LGBT Jews will convene from July 4-7 at Kibbutz Giv'at Haviva near Tel Aviv. Attendees are invited to arrive a week earlier for Tel Aviv Pride weekend beginning June 27. Planned activities for the intervening week include tours of the Galilee and Jerusalem - even a special visit to the ancient city of Sodom!

This year's conference, dubbed "Keshet Ga'avah," or "Rainbow of Pride," is occurring at a time of unparalleled LGBT visibility and activism in Israel, and Israel's political leadership has taken notice. Conference-goers will be welcomed by prominent figures including Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Chuldai, and will attend a special Pride meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem.

Continuing in its historic role of being at the forefront of the Jewish LGBT movement, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be well-represented. Conference organizers are calling for workshops, and several topics are currently under consideration by CSZ members.

Thinking about going? Please contact Michael Sarid (415/621-0738 or MSarid@earthlink.net). To learn more and to register, please visit the World Congress website at www.wcgljo.org.

The next meeting of CSZ's Israel Committee will take place on Thursday, January 17 at 6:30 pm at the synagogue. All are welcome!

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The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

- *Chair and Editorial Coordinator:* Karen Schiller
- *Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Judith Cohen, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Brian Jersky, Rose Katz, Batya Kalis, Kerri Schiff
- *Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- *Design and Layout:* Kerri Schiff
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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: Attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

January 2002, Volume 25, Issue 5.



Pre-Shabbat Welcome Dinner

If you would like to a) meet more people or b) become more active in the synagogue, the Kesher (Connection) Committee can definitely help you.

Friday, January 18, 6:15 pm

Bangkok 16, 3214 16th St. (between Dolores and Guerrero)

Please join the Kesher (Connection) Committee for this informal "pay-your-own-way" gathering. This is a chance for prospective members, new members and seasoned members to get to know each other in an informal and relaxed setting. Bangkok 16 offers an inexpensive and rich Thai menu in a home-style dining room with friendly, exceptionally gracious service. Spend the evening with us and you'll know that both Bangkok 16 and CSZ are both haimish.

As in our minhag (custom), we gather at CSZ at 6:15 pm and then head to the restaurant at 6:30 pm.

Please RSVP to either Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, mhwernick@aol.com) or the office (415/861-6932, office@shaarzahav.org). We look forward to having you join us.

Kadimah Sells Passover Candy

No need to search the Bay Area for those special Passover treats that sustain you through the long bread-free week. The Children's Education Board (CEB) and the children of Kadimah are bringing Bartons Passover candies straight from NY to you! Whether it's the chocolate macaroons or chocolate matzo that you must have, we can meet the needs of your Passover sweet tooth while you help support Sha'ar Zahav's family and children's education programs. Look for CEB representatives and Kadimah children before Friday night services during the month of January to place your orders or complete the enclosed order form and send it with a check to the Education Office today.

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January 2001-Tevet/Shevat 5762

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		1 17 Tevet OFFICE CLOSED NO EAST BAY KADIMAH	2 NO KADIMAH
6 • 10:30 am - Non-Gender-Biased Parenting • 4 pm - Healing Service	22 Tevet 7 • 5 pm - Feb. JGF Deadline	23 Tevet 8 • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah • 7-9 pm - Poetry, Prose and Midrash	24 Tevet 9 • 4 pm - Kadimah • 7 pm - JGF Editing • 7:30-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah 10 Essentials
13 • 6 pm - JGF Layout	29 Tevet 14 Rosh Chodesh 1 Shevat	15 • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah • 7-9 pm - Poetry, Prose and Midrash	2 Shevat 16 • 4 pm - Kadimah • 7-8:30 pm - Bereavement Support Group • 7:30-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah 10 Essentials
20	7 Shevat 21 Martin Luther King Day 8 Shevat	22 9 Shevat OFFICE CLOSED • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah • 7-9 pm - Poetry, Prose and Midrash	23 • 4 pm - Kadimah • 7-8:30 pm - Bereavement Support Group • 7:30-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah 10 Essentials
27 • 4 pm - Music in the Mishkan	14 Shevat 28 Tu B'Shevat 15 Shevat	29 16 Shevat • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah • 7-9 pm - Poetry, Prose and Midrash	30 • 4 pm - Kadimah • 7-8:30 pm - Bereavement Support Group • 7:30-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah 10 Essentials

East Bay Services

Friday, January 18, 8:15 pm

Deb Yates and Sue Bojdak
6156 Laird Ave, Oakland
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FEBRUARY DEADLINE MONDAY, JANUARY 28

ARTICLES

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to:
kschiller@igc.org. No late submissions will be accepted.

To place a display ad, call 510/635-0214 or froslyn@earthlink.net

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need updated information.

	THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SHABBAT
18 Tevet	3	19 Tevet	4	20 Tevet	5 Shabbat Shemot (Exodus 11:1-6:1) 21 Tevet
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:44 pm - Candle Lighting • 6 pm - Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Larry Wexler and Ruth Schoenbach</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Dan Bellm</i> Bar Mitzvah of <i>Dan Bellm</i>
25 Tevet	10	26 Tevet	11	27 Tevet	12 Shabbat Va'era (Exodus 6:2-9:35) 28 Tevet
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting • 4:51 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Danny Kodmur</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Ron Edelman</i> Naming of <i>Malik Bernstein</i>
3 Shevat	17	4 Shevat	18	5 Shevat	19 Shabbat Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16) 6 Shevat
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 pm - Israel Committee Meeting • 4:58 pm - Candle Lighting • 6:15 pm - Pre-Shabbat Welcome Dinner • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Jeff Piade and Nicole Bloom</i> East Bay Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • NO Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Andy Fyne</i> • 7 pm - Mishigas Poetry Slam
10 Shevat	24	11 Shevat	25	12 Shevat	26 Shabbat Beshallach (Exodus 13:17-17:16) 13 Shevat
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 pm - Open Dialogue on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict • 5:06 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Eileen Levy</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • Tot Shabbat • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Dev Felder-Noily and Tiela Chalmers</i> • 11 am - Family Tu B'Shevat Celebration • 12:30 pm - Baby Havurah • 5-11 pm - Teen Babysitting Fundraiser
17 Shevat	31	18 Shevat	1	19 Shevat	2 Shabbat Yitro (Exodus 18:1-20:23) 20 Shevat
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting • 5:15 pm - Candle Lighting • 6 pm - Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services

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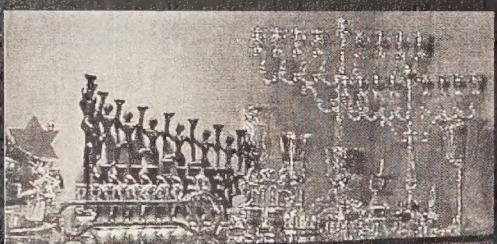
ted information.

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives. When there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

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Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner



Tu B'Shevat Tot Shabbat

Saturday, January 26, 9:30 am
[Note special time]

Learn about Tu B'Shevat with Family Education Specialist Jeni Markowitz. Sing holiday songs, plant seedlings and celebrate the trees. Share this special Shabbat through storytelling, singing, prayer and movement! For children ages 2-5, their friends and families.

Baby Havurah and Bagel Brunch

Saturday, January 26, 12:30 pm

Hey Baby! Did you know that Baby Havurah has moved to 12:30 pm on Shabbat afternoons? Join us in January for this excellent monthly opportunity for babies to check out with whom they'll be attending Kadimah and for parents to get to know each other. Songs, toys, bubbles, finger plays and a puppet show mini-service are not to be missed by the twenty-four-month-and-under set.

Parent Education Series: Non-Gender-Biased Parenting

Sunday, January 6
10:30 am to noon

Co-presented by Jewish Family and Children's Services, this workshop will explore how to navigate the gender traps of mainstream American culture. Explore important questions like: Where did she get this idea about women? How did he become so aggressive? And what can I do to stem the tide? Cost is \$10 per family. Child-care is available by reservation only. RSVP for childcare by January 3.

Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner and Service

Friday, January 4, 6 pm

Join us for our monthly family celebration of Shabbat with Rabbi Angel, Family Education Specialist Jeni Markowitz and teacher Lom Friedman. Special guests this month will be Kitah Gimel and their families. Children of all ages are welcome. There will be age-specific children's programming for both older and younger children. We will eat and sing and pray and welcome Shabbat. Reservations are necessary. Please RSVP by January 2.

Family Tu B'Shevat Celebration

Saturday, January 26
11 am to noon

What is Sha'ar Zahav's environmental community? Explore our block with special educator Ali Cannon and talk about environmental issues such as preserving green space, native planting and urban gardening as we celebrate the first fruits and Jewish connections to the earth. This interactive indoor/outdoor program may require rain gear, so come prepared. Suitable for kids age 5 and up. Free to children enrolled in Kadimah or the Family Holiday Program. Others welcome for a \$5 fee per child.

For more information about any of these programs, or to RSVP, contact:

Sue Bojdak at 415/861-6932 ext. 302,
or educator@shaarzahav.org,

There is NO KADIMAH

Saturday - January 19

Support your synagogue and buy ad space in the

The Jewish Gaily Forward.

Contact Roslyn Fuerman at 510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net for details.

Davener and Doer by Marc Wernick



This month's Davener and Doer is Tiela Chalmers. Since joining Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in 1984 (when we owned the Danvers Street building, tucked in a quiet niche of the Castro), Tiela has served as president and vice-president of CSZ, organized many study retreat weekends, co-chaired the Long Range Planning Committee, and has served multiple terms on the Va'ad.

Tiela says her most exciting synagogue work was being chair of the Mishkan Dolores project; now we have a great building with a mortgage in a highly visible intersection of one of San Francisco's most popular new neighborhoods. She continues to give of her time, energy and insight by being an active member of the Ritual and Dues Committees and serves as part of the Past Presidents Council, the Endowment Committee and the Long Range Planning Task Force.

Tiela is the mother of two girls, Kailin, age 8, and Eliana, age 8 months. Her partner is Hershey Hirschkopf and she is co-parenting with Michael Frank. Professionally, Tiela is a public interest lawyer.

The JGF interviewed this self-described "over-ambitious, dedicated multi-tasker" to learn more about her and her experience as a synagogue leader. (She was doing laundry and cleaning the house during the interview.)

JGF: Tiela, you have a lot going on in your life right now. What is the secret of success?

After the quick self-effacing quip, "that's assuming I am successful," Tiela took a moment to reflect. And then she took another moment to talk to Eliana concerning which toy to play with during the interview. The truth was then exposed: "I have a profound inability to do only one thing at a time. Perhaps that is the reason I was happy being the synagogue president. It required keeping many balls in the air."

JGF: What has been the highlight of your

Involvement with CSZ?

"It is definitely the building (referring to 290 Dolores, also known as Mishkan Dolores). It is concrete. It shows what we can do as individuals and as a community. The building has had such a profound effect on defining who we are as one cohesive community.

"The building is also a demonstration that hard work pays off. We filled out lots of loan and grant applications and spent endless hours presenting and persuading loan officers. We met every week for hours with the architect and contractors. There were amazing personal stories that unfolded as members of the capital campaign committee met with each member of the community to explain what the new building might represent. I remember how many members stretched to make a personally mean-

ingful contribution: an individual on disability who pledged \$100 over five years; the financially comfortable congregant who gave 18% of her gross salary, and the 5-year-old daughter of an active congregant who gave a portion of her weekly allowance.

"People really got it that the new building would make us more visible and would put us in a whole new ballpark. The campaign came together in ways that I could not visualize. We had a great team of contractors, architects and designers - both professionals and lay-leaders.

"And it all paid off. I remember when we were in the Danvers St. location. We held Saturday morning services once a month. We struggled to have a minyan, sometimes counting the Torah and the rimo

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Inspired by Tiela's involvement? Want to help make the Mishkan Dolores and the CSZ community come alive for you? Here are some ideas on how you can get more involved at CSZ:

- Check out the Synagogue Information box on page 10. Are there committees that you can lend your special talent to? Is there a group you are interested in? Well, just do it! Contact the committee chair. Tell her/him "hineini" - "Here I am. How can I learn more? How can I help?" Names and phone numbers are listed in the social directory or you can contact the office to help facilitate an introduction.
- Help with oneg set-up. If it is your turn to help with oneg, show up. If it is not your turn to help with oneg, show up anyway! Either way, it is a great way to meet people, and is something that is needed to keep the synagogue functioning. No special skills needed. No need to RSVP. Just come with a smile and be willing to help, any Friday night at 7:30. (Or stay after the oneg to help clean up.)
- Make a pledge or a donation to the Mishkan Dolores Fund. You can make a donation by simply mailing a check to the synagogue office with a note, or make a more extended gift by telling the office that you want to make a pledge with regular payments over time. Every dollar helps.
- Donate \$36 to help the Art Shabbaton. One of the great things about having a great building is the chance to host great events, like the Art Shabbaton. In April, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be bursting at the seams with paint, clay, fabric, dance, song and study with a weekend-long program exploring the "right-brain" aspects of Judaism. For artists and non-artists alike, this second annual, weekend-long Shabbaton will be a celebration of the arts. You can help underwrite an artist's workshop or provide free admission for a child by making a suggested \$36 donation. Mail your donation to the office and write in the memo section "Art Shabbaton."

If you have suggestions for the "Davener and Doer," column please contact Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, mhwernick@aol.com).

January

- 1 Desmond Bernstein
- 2 Frieda Dunn Baldonado
Naomi Kosman-Wiener
- 3 Kimberly Warsaw
- 4 Sarah Goodman
- 5 Jonathan Bell
Michelle Binder
- 6 Nathan Robinson
- 7 Leah Finch
Paul Whitmore
- 9 Amalia Cymrot-Wu
Marius Greenspan
Genevieve Rose
- 10 Bernard Schertzer
Danna Zeller
- 11 Dvora Honigstein
- 12 Tiela Chalmers
Gregory Eichler
Florence Nacamulli
- 13 Alapai Michels
- 14 Sophie Hogan-Cytron
Michael Schwartz
Louisa Stone
- 15 Jacqueline Mauro
Howard Rubin
- 16 Deena Lahn
- 17 Gabriel Meyer Edlin
- 18 Sarah Adler
- 19 Ellen Lewin
Mike Rankin
- 20 Ruby Cymrot-Wu
David Gorbet
Eileen Lynette
- 21 Jim Accera
Felicia Park-Rogers
- 22 Marvin Bernstein
Laureen Ok Sun Kim
- 24 Kevin Johnson
Malik Randall
Jonathan Williamson
- 25 Neil Hart
- 27 Ben Bank
Howard Hahn
Mike Klayman
Elliot Klein
- 28 Alexandra Blachman-Gentile
- 29 Jacob Montgomery
- 30 Ruth Schoenbach
- 31 Nora Downs

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Education office, 415/575-4962
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- Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant,
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- familyeducator@shaarzahav.org
Rabbi's Assistant,
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- llkatz1@juno.org or
- president@shaarzahav.org
Vice President, Arthur Slepian
Vice President, Jeffrey Sherman
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Ron Miguel
Drew Parker-Rose
Howard Steiermann
Ami Zusman

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman
and Prudence Carter
Archives, open
Baby Havurah, open
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, Nicole Bloom
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruthy Talansky
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open
Dues, James Carlson, Tiela Chalmers,
Brian Jersky, Laura Lowe
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk
and Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund, Diana Buchbinder
Finance, James Carlson
Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot
Fundraising, Arthur Slepian
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Committee, Ron Lezell
and Michal Goralsky
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, Bernard Schertzer
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Marianne Balin
Membership Outreach, Tony Harris
Mishigas, Geoff Benjamin, Caryn Aviv,
Larry Kaplun
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign,
Ellie Cohen
Music, Michael Sarid
Newsletter, Karen Schiller
- kschiller@igc.org
Past Presidents Council, David Stein
Personnel, Jeff Sherman
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
and Marc Wernick
Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold
Ritual, Howard Steiermann
Social Action, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko,
Susan Lubeck
Singles Havurah, Marc Wernick
- mhwernick@aol.com
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, Deena Lahn
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman
Web and I.T., Drew Parker-Rose
Women's Havurah, open

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Condolences

Neil Hart, on the death of his aunt, Sally Golding.

Melissa Packer, on the death of her grandfather, Tzvi Ben Yitzok.

Rena Frantz, on the death of her father, Milton Frantz.

Avraham Giannini, on the death of his father, Thomas Giannini.

Melanie Kushnir-Davido, on the death of her grandmother, Fannie Kushnir.

Kailin Koch, on the death of her great-grandmother, Rose Gross.

Heather Fox, on the death of her father, David Fox.

Naches

To **Brian Jersky** on his appointment as Adjunct Associate Professor at UCSF.

To **Carolyn Pines** for entering a teaching credential program in elementary education at Mills College.

To **Bernard Schertzer** on his recent recognition by the City and County of San Francisco for his work as a tenant leader in the community.

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the oneg and/or flowers in recent weeks:

12/07 Oneg by **Jody Lines** in memory of Adelia Lines.

Flowers by **Rachel MacLachlan and Nancy Silverrod** in memory of Michael Harjan and Adelia Lines.

12/14 Flowers by the **Cymrot-Wu Family** in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.

12/28 Oneg by **Richard Weiner** in memory of Mimi Nobel Weiner.

Flowers by **Rachel MacLachlan and Nancy Silverrod** in memory of Elijah Michael Silverrod MacLachlan.

Daveners and Doers

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nim (Torah crowns) to get to the 10 people needed for a prayer service. Now, at Mishkan Dolores, we have regular Saturday morning Torah services with great attendance and a growing corps of congregants learning to leyn (chant) Torah for the service."

JGF: Can you offer a little bit more insight into what responsibilities we have, as members of the CSZ community, to the building?

"The building is an organic, living creature that needs on-going attention and love. It needs regular upkeep, of course, and there is a list of things that we could not afford when we bought the building but that still need to be done. In addition, CSZ is still paying for what we have, which is a facility that is not only beautiful to look at, but is physically accessible and is highly functional for our community's diverse needs. Virtually all of those folks who were members at the time we bought and renovated the building made pledges; some of which have been fulfilled, some of which are still being paid off. But we need our newer members to make a pledge, too. We don't make that man-

datory, like most shuls do; we hope that you will love this building and pitch in to support it. The continued support of the members who have already fulfilled their pledges would be wonderful as well."

JGF: What advice would you give to people who want to take a leadership role at CSZ?

"Join anything. Work with other people. Come to services and/or committee meetings regularly. All of these activities help create a sense of place and a sense of community."

"I am naturally shy - which I know is hard for people to believe. I figured that if I broke the ice by helping plan events or helping with oneg, that would make things easier for me. It is easier to start a conversation with 'Could you please pass the crepe paper?' than with 'What did you think of this week's drash (commentary on the Torah portion)?' And guess what? Over time, I really enjoyed meeting and working with people at CSZ and now it is easier to ask either question of friends and fellow congregants, whether we are praying together, in a meeting or just socializing in the oneg room."

From the LGBT Outreach Project of Jewish Family and Children's Services

Making Commitment Work

A seminar for same gender and queer identified couples.

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"On The Mark" Mentor Program

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For registration & information
contact Margaret Rothman
415/449-1228
margaretr@jfcs.org



For more information
contact Shira Luft
415/359-2463
shiral@jfcs.org

Contributions

Adult Education Fund

George and Phyllis Mintzer
-in memory of Dolores Urban.
-with prayers for Diane Bernbaum's recovery.

Batya Kalis
-in honor of Dan Bellm's becoming bar mitzvah.

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein
-in memory of Don Albert.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

George and Phyllis Mintzer
- in memory of Thomas Giannini
- in memory of Milton Frantz
- with prayers for Clarissa Kripke and Joanne Kapsack

Ira Hirschfield
-in honor of all those who volunteered to make the High Holiday services so meaningful.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Batya Kalis
-in memory of Sherman Kalis.

Children's Education Fund

Mitchell and Donna Yates
-in honor of the legal recognition that Itai Bojdak-Yates has two moms.

Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Batya Kalis
-in memory of Dorothy Hodes.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Allan Berenstein
-in memory of Chuck Norton and Forrest Kincade.

Rabbi Angel's Discretionary Fund

Arnie Jackie
-in memory of Louis Jackson.

Daniel Najjar
-in honor of Ed Blaik.

Ira S. Hirschfield.

Diana Buchbinder and Jeane Redsecker

-in appreciation of Rabbi Angel for her guidance, support and kind words during their wedding preparation and ceremony.

Richard Crane
-in memory of Irene Crane.

Dorna Jaeger Silverman
-in honor of the marriage of Beth Silverman and Geoff Skigen.

Social Action Fund

Allan Berenstein
-in memory of Harry Berenstein.

General Fund

James Carlson
-in memory of Thomas Giannini.
-in honor of Phyllis Mintzer.

Eli Weinstein
-in honor of the birth of his grand-nephew David Ross Sands-Weinstein.
-in memory of Thomas Giannini.

Marc Lipschutz
-in honor of Diana Buchbinder and Jeane Redsecker's wedding.

Rod Leslie
-in memory of Frieda Miller Leslie.

Tony Nemger
-in memory of Violet Keeperman.

Brian Jersky
-in memory of Pauline Jersky and Leiba Skukowitz.

Karen Schiller
-in memory of Jay Schiller.
-in honor of Marc Wernick, with thanks for all he does for the synagogue.

Randy Blaustein
-in appreciation of Rabbi Angel's class

Heather Fox
-in memory of Louise Weiss Fox.

Batya Kalis
-in memory of Milton Frantz and Thomas Giannini.

Ira Hirschfield
-in honor of James Carlson and Ed Blaik.

Debora Sommers.

Linda and Norman Merwise
-in honor of Tracy and Joshua Merwise.

Lisa Katz
-in memory of Milton Frantz
-in memory of Thomas Giannini

Joan Goldman
-in honor of Diane Buchbinder and Jeane Redsecker's wedding.

Anonymous
-in honor of Paul Cohen

Library Fund

Ann Bauman
-in honor of Rabbi Angel and Lea Salem.

High Holy Day Contributions (as of December 1st)

Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines.

Edward Sklar.

Cindy Friedman.

Jay Kohorn
-in honor of Benjamin Achtenberg.

Jan. Anniversaries

- 14 Amy Cunningham and Karen Golinski
- 15 Barbara Becker and Ellen Press
- 16 Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott
- 17 Nancy Igdaloff and Monica Levin
- 23 Stephen Hauptman and Trudi Hauptman
- 26 David Steinberg and Gregory Foley

Members' Yahrzeits

9 Jerry Davis	20 Cheryl Orvis
18 Keith Fenton	20 George Ash

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